



SPAWN®

HINE

HABERLIN

VAN DYKE

THE MONSTER IN THE BUBBLE: PART 1



ISSUE 176 DIGITAL EDITION

SPAWN.COM

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PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN:

Al Simmons was a hit man for the US government until his C.O. Jason Wynn, betrayed him and a mysterious assassin ended Al's life. At the moment of death, Al was offered a deal by the demon Malebolgia and returned to Earth as Spawn, a creature with supernatural powers born in Hell.

As Armageddon consumed the world, Spawn turned against his masters, destroying all life on Earth. While God and Satan continue their endless conflict in a parallel universe, Spawn has re-created the world and resurrected the human race in what has become known as the White Light. The portals to Heaven and Hell are closed, leaving humanity free from the influence of angels and demons. Or so he believes...

After a reunion with his brother, Richard, Al's long-buried memories are beginning to resurface and it seems the mysterious creature known as Mammon has been manipulating Al Simmons since he was a child. When he returns to his parent's home, Al's father tells him Mammon's influence stretches back even further. He gives the journal of his great-grandfather, Henry Simmons, a journal that carries a dire warning for future generations. The Simmons bloodline tainted and Al's mother has been in league with Mammon, the man she knew as Malefick, since before his birth, marrying Al's father for the sole purpose of breeding this generation's Hellspawn.



TODD McFARLANE
PRODUCTIONS
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EIGHTEEN HOURS AGO.

TWO
HUNDRED
YEARS!!

MAMMON
HAS BEEN
SCREWING WITH
MY FAMILY FOR
OVER TWO
HUNDRED
YEARS!

THE SIMMONS' HOME.

IF I HAD WARNED
YOU--IF I HAD SHOWN YOU
MY GRANDFATHER'S JOURNAL
LIKE I WAS SUPPOSED TO,
THIS WOULD NEVER HAVE
HAPPENED TO YOU.

I'D GIVE
MY LIFE TO GO
BACK-

-YOU
SHOULD BE
PROUD. OUR
SON WAS
CHOSEN TO BE
HONORED
ABOVE ALL
MEN...

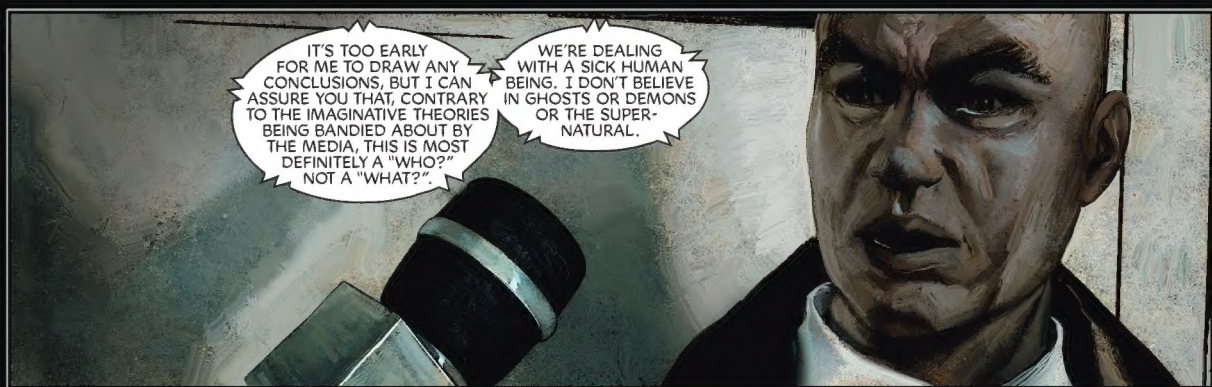
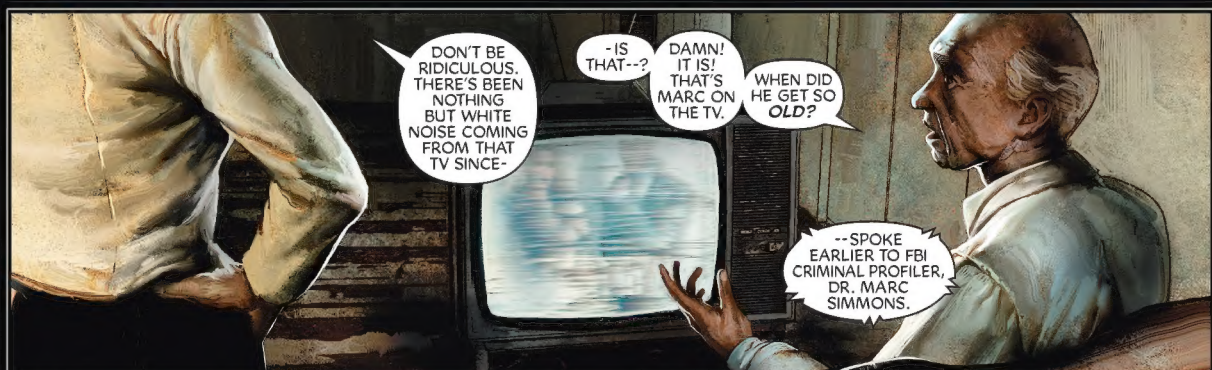
HONORED?!

MY
GRANDFATHER
WAS AN HONORABLE
MAN. HE WOULD
RATHER HAVE DIED
THAN BECOME
WHAT I AM.

MARC
SAW MAMMON
FOR WHAT HE WAS,
RIGHT FROM THE
START.

MARC
WAS THE
BEST OF
US.

MARC?





MAMMON'S
MAGICK IS TOO POWERFUL.
I CAN'T REMOVE THIS
BARRIER.

ONLY WE CAN
PASS THROUGH IT
BECAUSE MAMMON
ALLOWS US TO.

THEN MY
PARENTS
WILL HAVE
TO STAY
HERE.



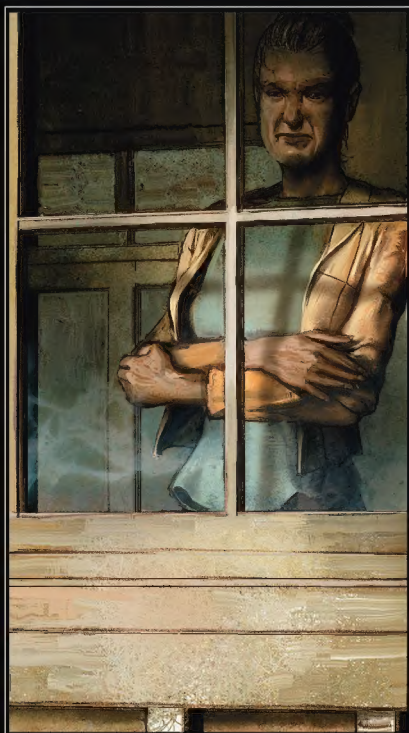
AND WE
HEAD FOR
SEATTLE?

ISN'T
THAT
WHAT
MAMMON
WANTS?

DO I HAVE
A CHOICE?

WELL, IF I
CAN QUOTE YOU
ON THE SUBJECT,
"THERE'S ALWAYS
A CHOICE."

THEN I
CHOOSE TO
GO TO
SEATTLE.

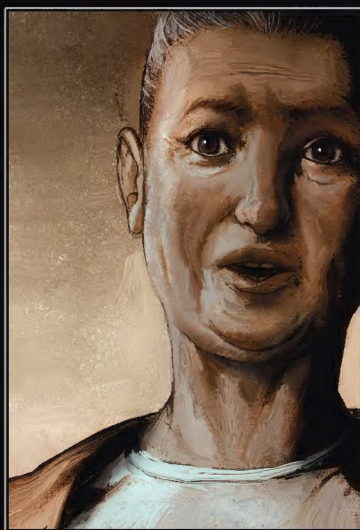
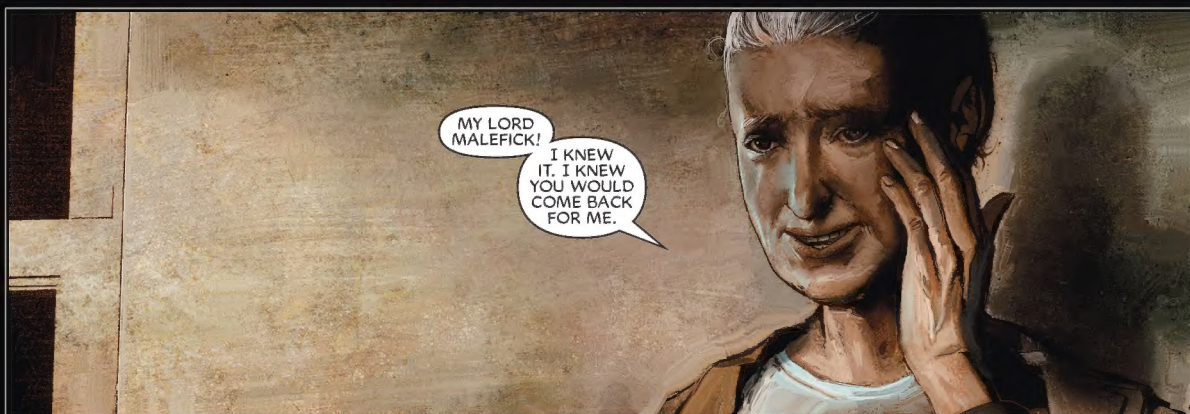
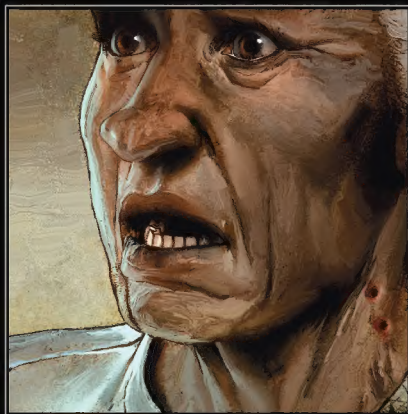


HE'S GONE,
BERNARD.

AL'S TRYING
TO FIND MALEFICK,
BUT WHEN THE TIME
COMES, IT WILL BE
MALEFICK WHO
FINDS HIM.



--BERNARD?



SEATTLE, THE APARTMENT OF
JAVIER MARTINEZ, DECEASED.

WE BAGGED
MARTINEZ IN
39 SEPARATE
PIECES.

ANYTHING
MISSING?

WE DON'T
KNOW YET.
PATHOLOGY IS
STITCHING HIM
BACK TOGETHER
AS WE SPEAK.

IT COULD
TAKE A
WHILE.



FROM THE
APARTMENT,
DETECTIVE, WAS
ANYTHING TAKEN
FROM THE
APARTMENT?

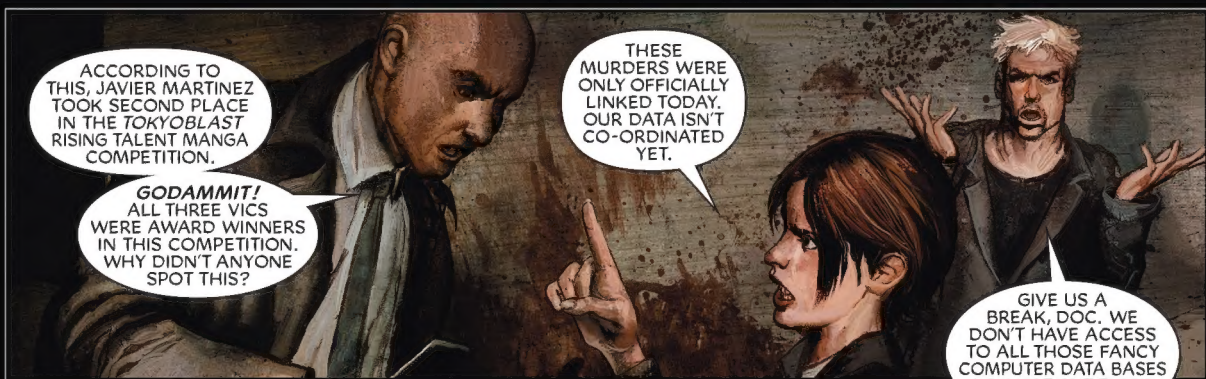
THERE'S
INTERRUPTION OF
SPLATTER MARKS THAT
SUGGESTS SOMETHING
WAS REMOVED FROM
THIS SHELF.

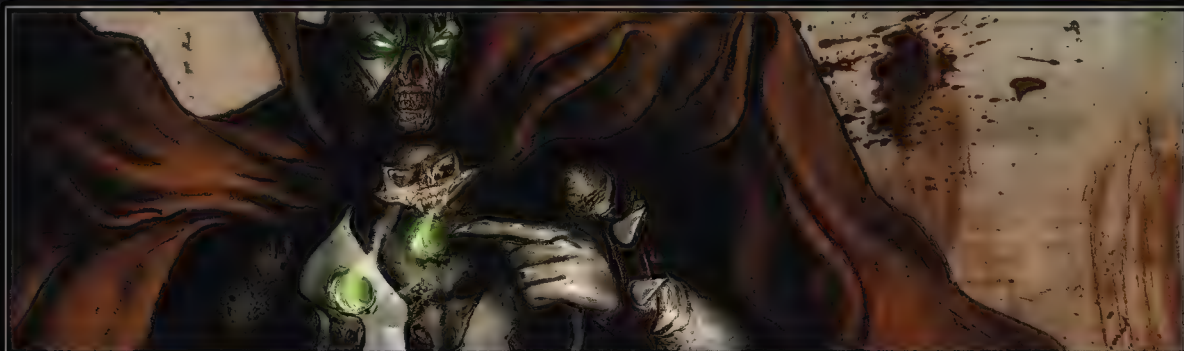
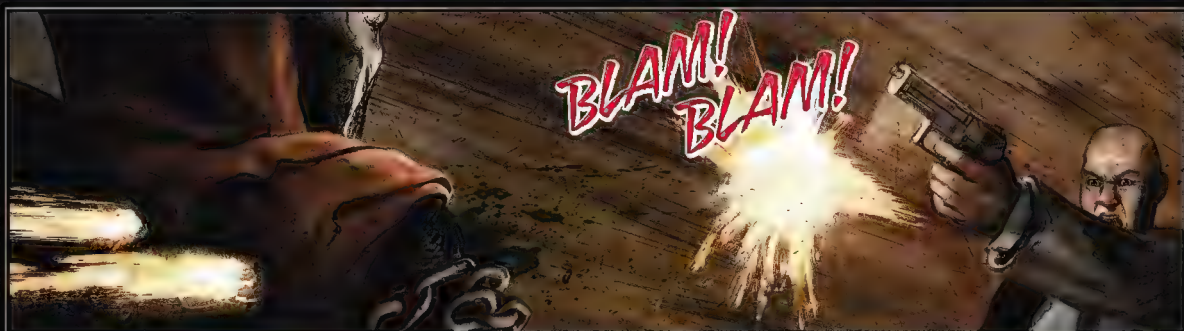


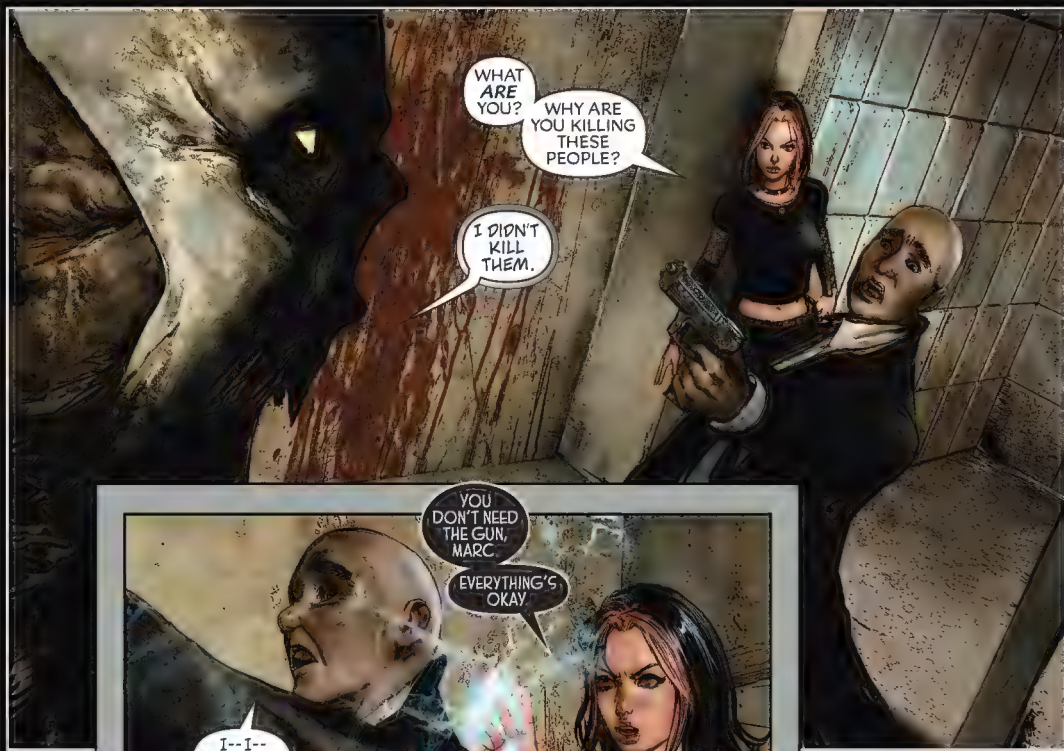
THE
APARTMENT
WAS LOCKED
FROM THE INSIDE,
DOOR AND
WINDOWS. NO
SIGNS OF FORCED
ENTRY. NO OBVI-
OUS METHOD OF
EGRESS. CLASSIC
LOCKED ROOM
MYSTERY.

THERE'S A
LOT OF MUCUS
AROUND THE PLACE
TOO. I'D GUESS
NOT OF HUMAN
ORIGIN.









WHAT ARE YOU?

WHY ARE YOU KILLING THESE PEOPLE?

I DIDN'T KILL THEM.



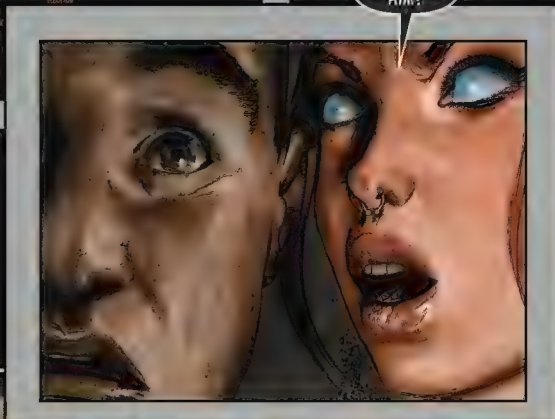
YOU DON'T NEED THE GUN, MARC.

EVERYTHING'S OKAY.

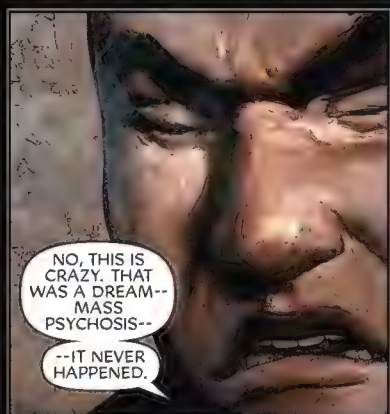
I--I-- HAVE TO ARREST--

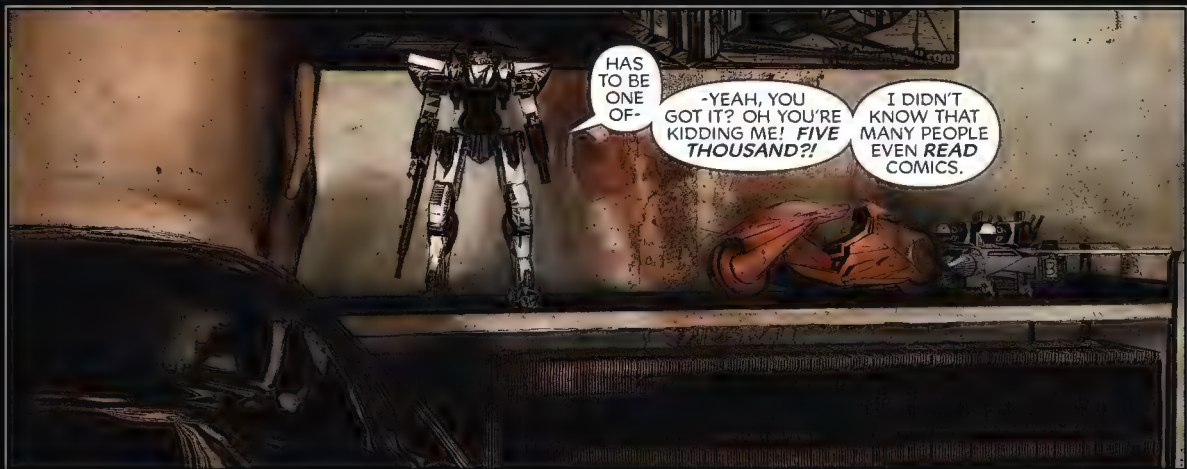
LOOK AT HIM.

DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE HIM?



THE WHITE LIGHT--IT WAS YOU--THE ANGEL WHO ENDED IT.





MOUNT PLEASANT
HOSPITAL, PORTLAND.

THIS IS
RIDICULOUS! IT'S
RIDICULOUS AND
OFFENSIVE!

DO YOU HAVE
ANY IDEA WHAT IT
MEANS TO SUFFER
FROM EXTREME
COMBINED IMMUNO-
DEFICIENCY?

YEAH, I
LOOKED
IT UP.

IT'S NOT
GOOD.

YET YOU STILL
INSIST THAT KENNETH ERSKINE
IS A SUSPECT. THAT HE SOME-
HOW TRAVELED 150 MILES TO
SEATTLE, COMMITTED A
BRUTAL MURDER-

-I DIDN'T
SAY THAT.
BUT WE DO
HAVE EVIDENCE
THAT POINTS TO HIS
HAVING SOME
KNOWLEDGE
OF THE
MURDERS.

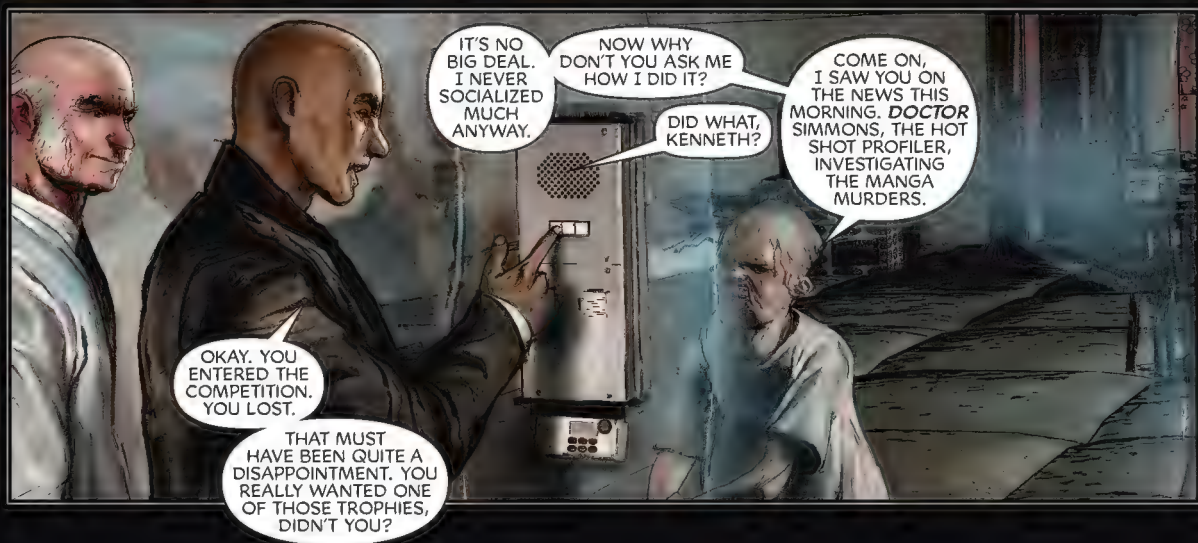
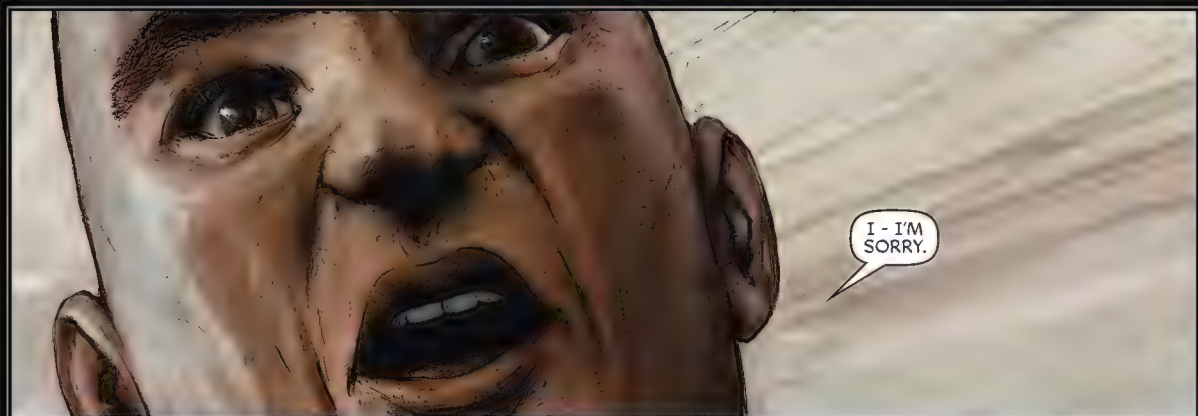
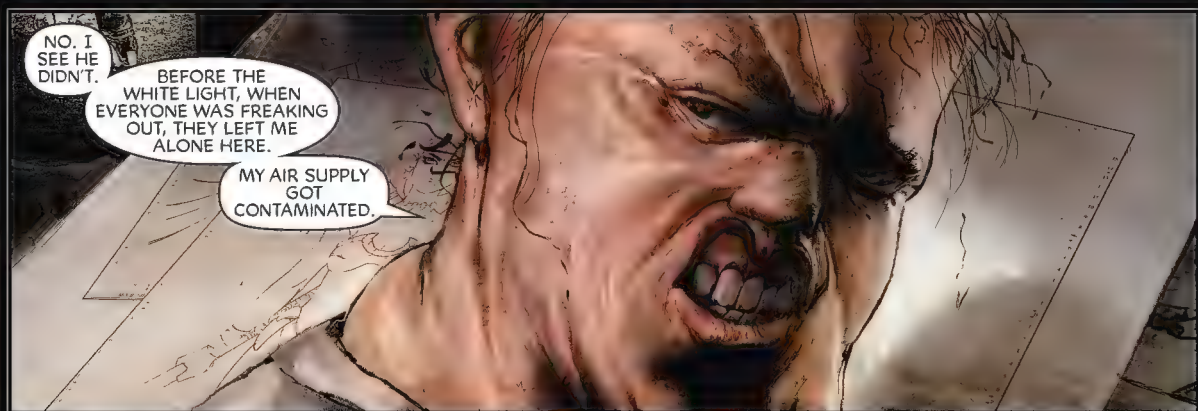
KENNETH
HASN'T SET FOOT
OUTSIDE HIS ISOLATOR
SINCE HE WAS SIX
MONTHS OLD. FOR
SEVENTEEN YEARS HE
HAS BEEN CONSTANTLY
MONITORED.

HE IS SO
SUSCEPTIBLE TO
BACTERIA THAT
CONTACT WITH
ANOTHER HUMAN
BEING WOULD
KILL HIM.

CONTACT
WITH
UNFILTERED AIR
WOULD KILL
HIM.

THIS BOY'S
ALIBI IS QUITE
LITERALLY AIR
TIGHT.

YOU'VE
MADE YOUR
POINT,
DOCTOR.





THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ENTERED THAT COMPETITION. I'M REALLY INTERESTED TO KNOW HOW YOU CAME UP WITH MY PROFILE.

YOU'VE GOT A KILLER WHO TRAVELS ACROSS HALF THE COUNTRY, RIPS PEOPLE INTO PIECES AND THEN ESCAPES FROM A LOCKED ROOM ON THE FIFTH FLOOR.

NOW WHO COULD THAT BE?

OH, I KNOW-



THE CRIPPLED KID WHO'S NEVER WALKED MORE THAN TEN YARDS FROM WHERE HE'S STANDING IN HIS ENTIRE LIFE!!

BRILLIANT DEDUCTION, SHERLOCK.

EXCUSE ME, I HAVE TO TAKE THIS.

Ba-da-ba-da-ba-da



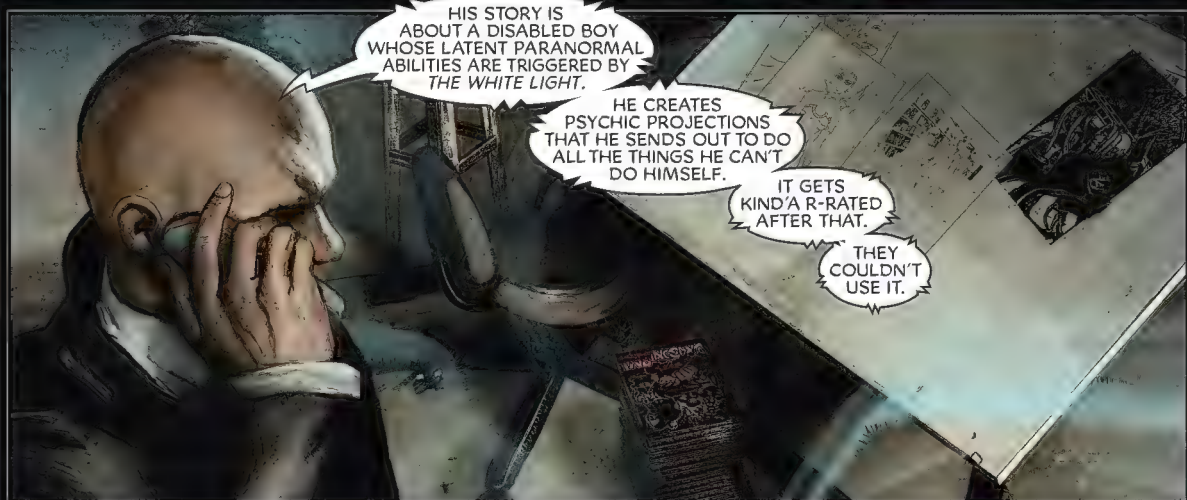
SAMMY, WHAT DO YOU HAVE?

I'VE TALKED TO THE PEOPLE AT TOKYOBLAST. WE HAVE ADDRESSES FOR THE TWO SURVIVING COMPETITION WINNERS-

--KIMBERLEY MANSON AND BUD HOSER. THERE ARE AGENTS ON THE WAY TO THEM.



WHAT ABOUT KENNETH ERSKINE?



HIS STORY IS ABOUT A DISABLED BOY WHOSE LATENT PARANORMAL ABILITIES ARE TRIGGERED BY THE WHITE LIGHT.

HE CREATES PSYCHIC PROJECTIONS THAT HE SENDS OUT TO DO ALL THE THINGS HE CAN'T DO HIMSELF.

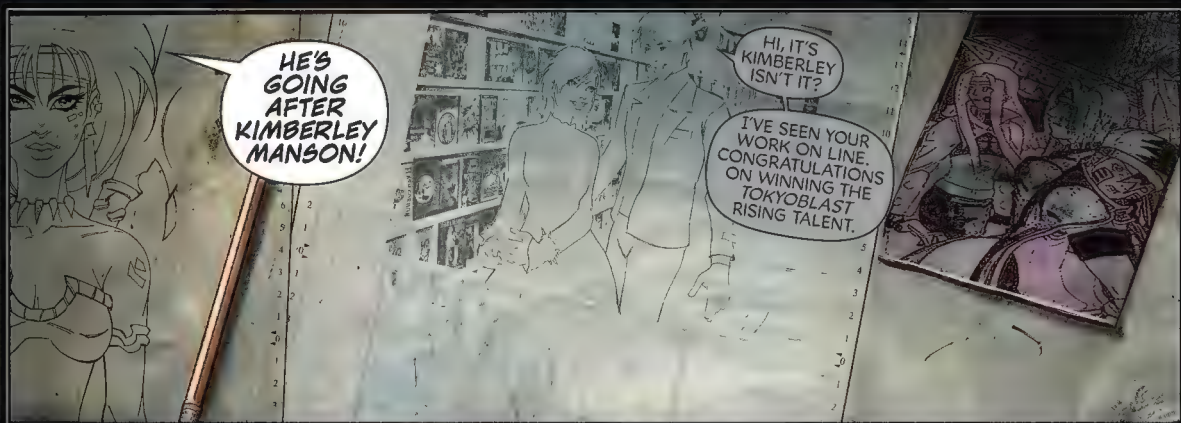
IT GETS KIND'A R-RATED AFTER THAT.

THEY COULDN'T USE IT.



PSYCHIC
PROJECTIONS?
MY GOD!!

HE'S
DOING IT
RIGHT
NOW!



HE'S
GOING
AFTER
KIMBERLEY
MANSON!

HI, IT'S
KIMBERLEY
ISN'T IT?

I'VE SEEN YOUR
WORK ON LINE.
CONGRATULATIONS
ON WINNING THE
TOKYOBLAST
RISING TALENT.



DIDN'T YOUR
MOTHER EVER TELL
YOU NOT TO BRING
STRANGE GUYS HOME
WITH YOU.

MY MOM
TELLS ME A
LOT OF THINGS.
IT'S WHAT
MOMS ARE
FOR.

PLUS-
WHO SAYS
YOU'RE STRANGE?
I FEEL LIKE I
ALREADY KNOW
YOU.

YOU LOOK
JUST LIKE
TAKUMI, THE
GUY IN MY
STORY.



YES,
I DO,
DON'T
I?

LET'S
SEE IF I
CAN FIX
THAT.

IS THIS
STRANGE
ENOUGH FOR
YOU?

AND BY
THE WAY, DID I
TELL YOU HOW
MUCH I HATE
YOUR CRAPPY
MANGA?

AIEEEEE

beep--
HI, KIMBERLEY
IS WORKING,
OR SLEEPING, OR
SHOPPING, OR
WHATEVER--
TALK OR
HANG UP--



KIMBERLEY,
THIS IS DETECTIVE
JAMES REILLY. I NEED
TO SPEAK TO YOU URGENTLY.
I'M DOWNSTAIRS RIGHT
NOW, SO IF YOU'RE THERE,
I WANT YOU TO PICK UP
THE PHONE AND THEN
LET US IN.





SCORE
ONE FOR
MARC! HE WAS
RIGHT ABOUT
ERSKINE.

WHA-?
WHO THE
HELL ARE
YOU?

LET HER GO,
KENNETH.

I'M
YOUR WORST
NIGHTMARE,
KENNETH.
I PROTECT
PEOPLE FROM
SCUM
LIKE YOU.

SO YOU
WANT ME
TO LET
HER GO?

NO
PROBLEM!

YAAAAAEEEEEE

KERASH







NEXT MONTH: THE SHOCKING CONCLUSION TO 'THE MONSTER IN THE BUBBLE.'



Tyrant
Lizard
King

EMPIRE